

## SAFFRON WALDEN CORPS COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 5 May 2009

Venue: Salvation Army Hall

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### MINUTES

**Present:** Major Carol Evans  
CSM Frank Jefferson  
CS Steph Hall  
YPSM Julia Attwood  
Tony Attwood  
Peter Dexter (start  
John West (start 5/5/09)  
Lisa Watts

#### 1. Scripture and Prayer

Offered by Carol – read from Psalm 33

#### 2. Apologies

RS Kelvin Pipe

##### Welcome

Carol welcomed John to his first meeting and to Tony, who had been co-opted to attend the meeting in his capacity as Evangelism Consultant.

#### 3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2009, were accepted as a fair representation of the meeting.

##### Matters Arising

- a) Tony has been duly appointed as the Corps Evangelism Consultant.
- b) The Contagious Christian course has been postponed. Members agreed that Saturday was a suitable day for this course. Carol will try to re-arrange an alternative date. Tony suggested arranging for the course to be recorded, to make it available to those who are unable to attend. Carol to discuss with Major Aubrey Draycott. **ACTION - Carol**
- c) The Safe & Sound Corps awareness course was a success. Carol and Julia will attend a further training course – invitation with date is expected to arrive shortly. **ACTION – Carol & Julia**
- d) Dedicated Divas dates now finalised for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Julia suggested some small handouts or leaflets would be useful to hand out to friends. Carol will organise. **ACTION – Carol**
- e) The Life Worth Living Course is now completed and Carol wished to express her thanks to all those who helped with the course, which was a great success.
- f) The tickets for the Ceilidh are selling well (50 sold to date). The event is being held Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May.
- g) Singing Group to Haverhill has been postponed until further notice.

- h) Corps Anniversary Weekend – Carol has invited General John Larsson to attend and is pending his response. If able to attend, Tony suggested opening the event up to others outside the Corps. Carol to follow up and action. **ACTION – Carol**
- i) Harvest Supper. Carol has established a contact at the Family Tracing Service who may make a good speaker for the evening. Carol will investigate and if appropriate, may invite him to attend the Harvest Supper. **ACTION – Carol**
- j) CO's Furlough will be 26<sup>th</sup> July – Steph will lead with Julia adding input for VBS Prayer Day. Julia reminded members that the retiring collection for VBS will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June and asked Frank to announce a reminder to people the week before to increase awareness that a collection will be taking place. **ACTION - Frank**
- k) Worship Evaluation. Carol will ask Major Aubrey Draycott for a questionnaire template.

#### 4. Junior Soldier Dates

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – an evening of fellowship – ten pin bowling

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Junior Soldiers will be leading the meeting

#### 5. Fun Day

Meeting is being held on 6<sup>th</sup> May with URC. Tony shared his ideas for including Evangelism into the day and recommended using the information tent to focus on this area. Tony suggested that the tent could include:

- A number of good quality tracts, such as “Journey into Life”;
- Interactive media, such as video's through a laptop;
- Business cards including website and email details;
- Posters;
- Advertising activities, such as Alpha, Jam Club, The Well etc;
- A Welcome leaflet;
- Questionnaire to identify needs, but which also collects email details to build up mailing list;
- Prayer request forms;
- A minimum of two people manning the tent;

URC will also be given the opportunity to contribute material and to help run the tent. Julia and Tony are happy to run this on behalf of the Corps together with the URC (if URC wish to participate).

Tony suggested setting up a joint email for both churches e.g. info@funday.com which can be used to capture all comments and questions regarding the event, but will enable all emails to be collected at one central point.

Carol thanked Tony for his excellent ideas and suggestions.

Frank advised that CPO has a good site for poster design at reasonable prices. Tony to research and give Carol an idea of costs for posters etc. **ACTION – Tony**

Carol to feedback to Tony with URC response following meeting **ACTION - Carol**

Frank will provide a 9 x 3 gazebo for the information tent. **ACTION – Frank**

Other ideas mentioned for activities during the day included:

- An exercise bike activity – the distance cycled in x number of minutes;
- Treasure Hunt with biblical clues scattered around the garden/tents – John would be happy to assist with this idea.

## 6. Outside Notice Board

It was suggested that the notice board should be divided into three sections:

- i) Regular weekly events with times (changed fortnightly)
- ii) Mission section (e.g. Evangelistic Poster)
- iii) Special events section

It was agreed that the notice board should be updated regularly (a minimum of fortnightly) to maintain public interest and should look professional, tidy and clear.

Tony, Peter and John volunteered to take on the design and management of the board and committed to having the first poster completed and inserted by the end of May.

***ACTION – Tony, Peter & John***

Carol requested a designated spot for Special Events to be big enough to accommodate 2 x A4 sheets. Carol expressed her thanks and gratitude to Tony, Peter and John for their support in taking on the notice board management role.

## 7. Babysong

Julia and Carol attended the Baby-song training course and feel this is something they would like to pursue. Training will be offered to Kathryn who has also expressed an interest. Julia and Carol will decide on the best date to start the 8-week course. It will be aimed at 3-4 year olds (feeder group for Jam Club). Frank suggested that any publicity leaflets for the course could be added to the Kids Alive magazines that are sold in the town.

See attached for further details.

## 8. Small Groups

Carol has attended the course – report attached.

Council agreed that this was the way to move forward and the next steps were agreed as:

- i) identify potential leaders – any offers of taking a leadership role or ideas to be passed to Carol ***ACTION – All***
- ii) investigate suitable training availability ***ACTION – Carol***
- iii) Invite identified leaders to attend training course ***ACTION – Carol***
- iv) Arrange meeting of identified leaders and Pastoral Care team to agree next steps. ***ACTION – Carol***

## 9. Fellowship Groups - carried forward to next meeting

## 10. Items for Next Agenda

Please forward any suggestions to Carol

***ACTION - All***

## 11. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 7.30pm at Army Hall

## 12. Closing Prayer – offered by Frank.

LSW  
05.05.09

## Summary of Actions

<b>Action</b>	<b>By Who</b>
Contagious Course – re-arrange training and enquire as to whether course could be recorded.	Carol
Safe & Sound Training Course – Julia & Carol to attend	Julia & Carol
Dedicated Divas – organise some small leaflets/handouts	Carol
Corps Anniversary weekend – follow up on invitation to General John Larsson and consider inviting public to event.	Carol
Harvest Supper – consider inviting Family Tracing contact to attend supper as Speaker	Carol
VBS Retiring Collection – issue reminder with the announcements at the meeting the week before.	Frank
Fun Day – research costs for posters etc and advise Carol	Tony
Fun Day – provide Tony with URC feedback/response following committee meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> May.	Carol
Fun Day - Provide 9 x 3 gazebo for information tent to Tony	Frank
Notice board – design and manage notice board, aiming for 1 <sup>st</sup> poster in place by end of May	Tony, Peter & John
Small Groups – identify potential leaders and advise Carol	All
Small Groups – establish suitable training course and invite identified leaders to attend. Arrange meeting with Pastoral Care team to progress.	Carol
Items for Next Agenda – suggestions to be forwarded to Carol	All

## BabySong

Outline of idea:

- Group of ten toddlers with a parent or grandparent sitting in a circle
- Christian songs and Bible stories led in a special gentle way to enable the children to experience the love of God
- Same start each week, same ending, and a theme in the middle.
- Use of simple instruments, led by one leader.
- Each child and parent made to feel special
- The same group for 8 weeks
- Afterwards, coffee and fellowship while the children play, half hour
- Make a charge for 8 weeks (offer at half price for pilot group)

CRUCIALLY, THIS IS NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN SINGING GROUP, BUT A MISSION OPPORTUNITY AND A CHANCE TO BUILD LASTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

Therefore fulfils 2 aims

- Reaching out to toddlers who come to the Well
- Identifies new recruits for JAM Club and families to join our fellowship

## Resources needed

Prayer support during session

Use of hall for 2 hours ? Friday morning

2 leaders (Julia and Carol)

Instruments (shakers and drums)

Lidded cups

Refreshments

At least one person to make coffee

Publicity

## **Report from “Small Group” seminar given by CO at Nottingham Corps.**

The training session didn't so much focus on how to set up small groups, but on the groundwork that needs to take place before they are set up.

### **Main points that I found helpful:**

“No Methodology will be able to give you a vision. START WITH THE VISION, then decide on the Methodology” Must explore and decide on the ‘values’ before attempting to launch.

A reminder that this is part of the UKT vision: In His letter to the Territory in March 09 our TC, Commissioner John Matear concluded “My final word comes in the form of practical challenge. It is my personal testimony and observation that the ideal scenario for making progress on the discipleship journey is involvement in and commitment to the small group approach. It encourages mutual accountability, develops trust, and through shared prayer, discussion and study provides the opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord, one another and the communities we are called to serve.”

Acts 2:42-47 shows that the ‘small group’ was the fundamental building block of the church

A good place to start in terms of the purpose of small groups is with words of Jesus: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul. And love your neighbour as yourself.

- i.e. Love God – Bible study
- Love each other – Pastoral and Social
- Love our neighbours – Evangelism/ Social action

Further thoughts:

Identifying and Training of leaders (and deputy leaders) essential

In some places the whole corps is divided into small groups – even if not everyone attends the meetings

Groups of 6-8 a good way to start. Once they reach 12, the group can split and start to grow again